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Statement submitted by Women Organization for Development and Capacity Building, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Women Development and Capacity Building is non-profit organization established, 2004. Women Development and Capacity Building is concerned with issues that face women and children in the humanitarian and development settings. Women Development and Capacity Building is a member of inter-agency coordination mechanism in Sudan and actively participates in the following humanitarian sectors; Protection sector, gender base violence sub-sector, Child Protection sub sector, Education and other sectors. Women Development and Capacity Building has sub- offices in Kassala, South Kordofan, Blue Nile and Central Darfur States. Since 2004, Women Development and Capacity Building has been working to build the capacities of women's groups, advocating for a change and empowering women to gain their rights, and have a better life. Moreover, Women Development and Capacity Building is working to address the challenges facing women groups in conflict settings. Women Development and Capacity Building's overall strategy is to support efforts towards realization of sustainable development goals with focus on women and girls. Women Development and Capacity Building is an active member within the protection working group, wash working group, national organization networks, chairing the national committee for ending gender base violence. Women Development and Capacity Building has participated in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York (53- 57- 58- 60-61- 62).

Within the framework of social protection, Women Development and Capacity Building is a member of the network of organizations working in poverty reduction. The organization participated in the formation of the network and the approval of its main system. The organization has carried out awareness workshops in the field of production and increased productivity, management and marketing of small businesses.

Women Development and Capacity Building has also worked on a number of legal protection activities for those affected by the problems of tribal conflict by providing lawyers and defence bodies to affected women as well as protection against the effects of all kinds of violence.

Contribution of the Women Development and Capacity Building Organization in Social Protection

One of the Organization's top priorities in economic empowerment is the achievement of the goals of sustainable development. Therefore, Women Development and Capacity Building mobilizes the productive capacities of women to achieve the first goal: No poverty, the second goal: Zero hunger, goal 8: Decent work and economic growth, goal 12: responsible consumption and production and goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the goal. Women Development and Capacity Building has implemented several projects to achieve the first, second and eighth goals through small activities (domestic agriculture - animal production - food processing - knitting and embroidery - and ownership of production tools, benefited 15386 women. Food Security and Livelihoods and Job labour opportunities, beneficiary Number (9000 women). Distribution of food and school meals, number of beneficiaries (151137 women and 216320 Child). Formation of women's associations for rural savings and loan, the total beneficiaries (7370 women) in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

To achieve goal 12 through:

- Training programs to raise the capacity of women.
- Assessing the climate that enables women in agricultural projects to select suitable sites for growth and quality of crops.

- Increase women's awareness of labor rights and laws so that they can join unions and claim their rights.
- Marketing production to increase income and encourage production to improve living conditions.

To achieve Goal 17, Women Development and Capacity Building has been implementing these projects through partnerships with Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations, World Food Program, the Sudanese Humanitarian Funding Program, the Practical Action Fund and the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security. All this effort is facing local and global challenges in light of the international labour changes and some of these challenges are:

- Political changes and their impact on countries and the impact of local, regional and global economy.
- Conflicts within countries and wars between countries and their negative impact on the economy due to instability.
- Climate and environmental change and its impact on agriculture and livestock.

However, these local and global challenges we attempt to overcome most of them and we succeeded in achieving a development among women in the economic aspect, raising the level of income for families and achieved family stability and peaceful coexistence in those areas.

Challenges:

In spite of the various activities provided by civil society organizations during the previous period with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Mission in Sudan with its various departments, as well as the support of various international organizations and countries in the implementation of training programs on various human rights issues, reports stated that shortage of trained cadres remain a major challenge for Sudan.

The international community focus on civil and political rights in countries leads to a lack of attention to economic, social and cultural rights. Organizations have failed to play their full role in the promotion and protection of economic rights, which necessitates changing this pattern of behaviour by the international community.